

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 43, 48 and 49 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C1 28. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of Claims [43,] 44 or 45 wherein said polypeptide induces astroglial proliferation.

C2 30. (Twice Amended) [A] The nucleic acid molecule according to [Claim 43] any one of Claims 44 or 45 wherein said molecule is of human origin.

C3 33. (Twice Amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of Claims [43,] 44 or 45 encoding a murine homologue of human VEGF and comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:16.

44. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a [sequence] nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4.

C4 45. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a [sequence] nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:8.

46. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding or complementary to a [sequence] nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:10.

Draft E3 47. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:3 or having at least about 70% similarity to SEQ ID